What is Claimed Is:

1. A signaling network node configured for routing a received signaling message having message information, the signaling network node comprising:

a routing table configured for storing message class entries identifying respective message classes, each message class entry specifying at least one destination link identifier for a corresponding destination link assigned to the corresponding message class; and

a processor configured for selecting one of the destination links based on classifying the received signaling message as assigned to the corresponding message class, based on prescribed message class selection criteria.

2. The node of claim 1, wherein the destination links are grouped in prescribed linksets having respective linkset identifiers, the routing table further including linkset entries including destination point code entries and the respective assigned linkset identifiers, the processor configured for selecting the one message class entry based on determining a match between a destination point code value in the received signaling message and the destination point code entry of one of the linkset entries, and matching the classified received signaling message to the one message class entry specifying the at least one destination link within the one linkset identified by the one linkset entry.

3. The node of claim 2, wherein the received signaling message is identified by the processor as corresponding to a message class having a plurality of the destination links assigned, the routing table further including a signaling link selection entry associated with a corresponding one of the destination link identifiers, the processor configured for selecting the one message class entry further based on a match between a signaling link selection value in the received signaling message and one of the signaling link selection entries.

4. The node of claim 2, wherein the processor is configured for classifying the received signaling message based on at least a portion of the destination point code.

5. The node of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of linkset interfaces configured for receiving signaling messages from respective input linksets, the processor configured for classifying the received signaling message based on identifying one of a plurality of input linksets having supplied the received signaling message.

6. The node of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured for classifying the received signaling message based on prescribed user-selected selection criteria.

7. The node of claim 6, wherein the user-selected selection criteria includes a user-selected data pattern.

8. The node of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured for classifying the received signaling message based on a service indicator value from the received signaling message.

9. The node of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured for classifying the received signaling message based on global title translation (GTT) parameters retrieved from the received signaling message.

10. The node of claim 9, wherein the processor classifies the received message based on a Global Title Address (GTA) from the GTT parameters.

11. A method in a signaling network node for routing a received signaling message having message information, the method including:

storing message class entries identifying respective message classes in a routing table, each message class entry specifying at least one destination link identifier for a corresponding destination link assigned to the corresponding message class;

classifying a received signaling message as assigned to one of the message classes, based on prescribed message class selection criteria;

first selecting one of the message class entries based on classifying the received signaling message; and

second selecting one of the destination links based on the at least one destination link identifier specified in the one message class entry.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein:

the destination links are grouped in prescribed linksets having respective linkset identifiers;

the storing step includes storing linkset entries including destination point code entries and the respective assigned linkset identifiers; and

the first selecting step includes determining a match between a destination point code value in the received signaling message and the destination point code entry of one of the linkset entries, and matching the classified received signaling message to the one message class entry specifying the at least one destination link within the one linkset identified by the one linkset entry.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein:

the storing step further includes storing in the routing table a signaling link selection entry associated with a corresponding one of the destination link identifiers;

the second selecting step includes selecting the one message class entry based on a match between a signaling link selection value in the received signaling message and one of the signaling link selection entries.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the classifying step includes classifying the received signaling message based on at least a portion of the destination point code.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the classifying step includes classifying the received signaling message based on identifying one of a plurality of input linksets having supplied the received signaling message.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the classifying step includes classifying the received signaling message based on prescribed user-selected selection criteria.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the user-selected selection criteria includes a user-selected data pattern.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein the classifying step includes classifying the received signaling message based on a service indicator value from the received signaling message.

19. The method of claim 11, wherein the classifying step includes classifying the received signaling message based on global title translation (GTT) parameters retrieved from the received signaling message.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the classifying step further includes classifying the received message based on a Global Title Address (GTA) from the GTT parameters.

21. A computer readable medium having stored thereon sequences of instructions for routing a received message, the sequences of instructions including instructions for performing the steps of:

storing message class entries identifying respective message classes in a routing table, each message class entry specifying at least one destination link identifier for a corresponding destination
5   link assigned to the corresponding message class;

classifying a received signaling message as assigned to one of the message classes, based on prescribed message class selection criteria;

first selecting one of the message class entries based on classifying the received signaling message; and

second selecting one of the destination links based on the at least one destination link identifier specified in the one message class entry.

22. The medium of claim 21, wherein:

the destination links are grouped in prescribed linksets having respective linkset identifiers;

the storing step includes storing linkset entries including destination point code entries and the respective assigned linkset identifiers; and

the first selecting step includes determining a match between a destination point code value in the received signaling message and the destination point code entry of one of the linkset entries, and matching the classified received signaling message to the one message class entry specifying the at least one destination link within the one linkset identified by the one linkset entry.

23. The medium of claim 22, wherein:

the storing step further includes storing in the routing table a signaling link selection entry associated with a corresponding one of the destination link identifiers;

the second selecting step includes selecting the one message class entry based on a match between a signaling link selection value in the received signaling message and one of the signaling link selection entries.

24. The medium of claim 22, wherein the classifying step includes classifying the received signaling message based on at least a portion of the destination point code.

25. The medium of claim 21, wherein the classifying step includes classifying the received signaling message based on identifying one of a plurality of input linksets having supplied the received signaling message.

26. The medium of claim 21, wherein the classifying step includes classifying the received signaling message based on prescribed user-selected selection criteria.

27. The medium of claim 26, wherein the user-selected selection criteria includes a user-selected data pattern.

28. The medium of claim 21, wherein the classifying step includes classifying the received signaling message based on a service indicator value from the received signaling message.

29. The medium of claim 21, wherein the classifying step includes classifying the received signaling message based on global title translation (GTT) parameters retrieved from the received signaling message.

30. The medium of claim 29, wherein the classifying step further includes classifying the received message based on a Global Title Address (GTA) from the GTT parameters.

31. A signaling network node configured for routing a received signaling message, the signaling network node comprising:

    means for storing message class entries identifying respective message classes, each message class entry specifying at least one destination link identifier for a corresponding destination link assigned to the corresponding message class;

    means for classifying a received signaling message as assigned to one of the message classes, based on prescribed message class selection criteria;

    first means for selecting one of the message class entries based on classifying the received signaling message; and

    second means for selecting one of the destination links based on the at least one destination link identifier specified in the one message class entry.

32. The node of claim 31, wherein:

the destination links are grouped in prescribed linksets having respective linkset identifiers;

the storing means is configured for storing linkset entries including destination point code entries and the respective assigned linkset identifiers; and

the first means is configured for determining a match between a destination point code value in the received signaling message and the destination point code entry of one of the linkset entries, and matching the classified received signaling message to the one message class entry specifying the at least one destination link within the one linkset identified by the one linkset entry.

33. The node of claim 32, wherein:

the storing means is configured for storing a signaling link selection entry associated with a corresponding one of the destination link identifiers;

the second means is configured for selecting the one message class entry based on a match between a signaling link selection value in the received signaling message and one of the signaling link selection entries.

34. The node of claim 32, wherein the classifying means is configured for classifying the received signaling message based on at least a portion of the destination point code.

35. The node of claim 31, wherein the classifying means is configured for classifying the received signaling message based on identifying one of a plurality of input linksets having supplied the received signaling message.

36. The node of claim 31, wherein the classifying means is configured for classifying the received signaling message based on prescribed user-selected selection criteria.

37. The node of claim 36, wherein the user-selected selection criteria includes a user-selected data pattern.

38. The node of claim 31, wherein the classifying means is configured for classifying the received signaling message based on a service indicator value from the received signaling message.

39. The node of claim 31, wherein the classifying means is configured for classifying the received signaling message based on global title translation (GTT) parameters retrieved from the received signaling message.

40. The node of claim 39, wherein the classifying means is configured for classifying the received message based on a Global Title Address (GTA) from the GTT parameters.